

Governor's Council on Small Business
April 19, 2007
Arizona State Capitol
Executive Tower, 2nd Floor Conference Room
1700 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007
www.azgovernor.gov/sb/

Minutes

Call To Order

Co-Chair Pam Del Duca called the meeting to order at 8:51 a.m. and provided opening comments and introductions. Co-Chair Del Duca and Executive Director gave the following instructions:

1. Each subcommittee Chair has 2 minutes to present
2. Governor Napolitano will proceed with her comments at presentations conclusion

Roll Call and Introductions

Members Present:

Pam Del Duca, Michael Ong Hing, Barbara Bruce, Joann Hardy Carranza, Michael Coles, Michele Eckert, Stephen Macias, Jan Leshner, David Steele, Choo Tay, Judith Wood, Isidora Wright, Melissa Amado, Rosiland Moore, Athia Hardt, Lea Marquez-Peterson

Excused:

Kenneth Frakes, Raul Montano, Frank Rivera

Guests:

Cheryl Lopez, Arizona Department of Commerce
Kathy Rodriguez, Arizona Department of Commerce
Sandra Watson, Arizona Department of Commerce

Staff:

Armando Contreras, Executive Director
Jaymie Parker, Program Specialist
Ken Dobbs, Assistant
Natascha Hebell-Fernando, Executive Director

Call to the Public

No comments from public

Approval of Minutes

Co-Chair Pam Del Duca asked the Council to review and approve minutes of the previous meeting dated March 9, 2007. Michael Coles so moved. Motion seconded by Athia Hardt. Motion Carried at 8:56 a.m.

Opening Remarks

Jan Leshner, Director ADOC – Director Leshner announced Armando Contreras' transition to his new role as Deputy Director at the Arizona Registrar of Contractors as the Deputy Director and introduced Natascha Hebell-Fernando as the new Executive Director for the Governor's Council on Small Business (GCSB) and Small Business Advocate for the Arizona Department of Commerce.

Governor Napolitano arrives at 9:13 a.m.

Reports

Subcommittee Recommendations as follows:

-Access to Affordable Health Care: Chair, David Steele acknowledged the Governor's efforts, the Co-Chairs hard work as well as Armando Contreras' contribution to the council then continued with the following recommendations:

- Eliminate barriers to Healthcare Group of AZ enrollment

- Identify strategic partnerships and market strategies to increase the Healthcare Group's enrollment.
- Develop innovative benefit designs that provide flexible consumer-driven healthcare to help control the costs of providing healthcare coverage.
- Provide incentives and broader solutions to improved healthcare coverage for small business with an emphasis on the uninsured and/or underinsured.

-Access to Financial Capital: Chair, Barbara Bruce acknowledged the Governor's efforts, the Co-Chairs hard work as well as Armando Contreras' contribution to the council then continued with the following recommendations:

- Establish the Arizona Department of Commerce as the central location of information for business financing information.
- Develop a marketing strategic plan to provide small business with comprehensive information on statewide financial and educational resources.
- Enhance the ADOC Small Business Services Website to include a list of statewide resources related to business financing.

-Outreach, Communication & Marketing: Chair, Joanne Carranza acknowledged the Governor's efforts, the Co-Chairs hard work as well as Armando Contreras' contribution to the council then continued with the following recommendations:

- Enhance the ADOC Small Business Service Website with links to state, regional and local small business resources.
- Promote small business educational statewide outreach opportunities to small business.
- Enhance rural community outreach.

-Workforce Development for Small Business: Chair, Rosiland Moore acknowledged the Governor's efforts, the Co-Chairs hard work as well as Armando Contreras' contribution to the council then continued with the following recommendations:

- Increase awareness and knowledge of statewide workforce development resources.
- Research transportation and short-term emergency childcare options available statewide for small business.
- Identify job training, apprenticeship, education programs for small business.
- Identify and promote corporate partnerships for small business capacity development.

Guest Speakers from Small Business Assistance Organizations

Michelle Allen Ahlmer – Arizona Retailers Association

Kathleen Hamel – Women Business Builders

Ron Williams – Grand Canyon Minority Supplier Development Council

New Business/Announcements

None.

Adjournment

Co-Chairs Pam Del Duca and Michael Ong Hing thanked the Council and adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m.